



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary

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**NOTE TO EDITORS - IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:**

## **USDA Secretary Ed Schafer Speaks on the Light Brown Apple Moth today in Sacramento**

**Sacramento, CA, March 25, 2008** – Today, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Schafer attended the CDFA's "Ag Day at the Capitol," and made remarks to the public and media on the state of agriculture. Specifically, he had the following to say about the Light Brown Apple Moth (as prepared for delivery):

"...I also want you to know that USDA is very concerned about the threat the Light Brown Apple Moth poses to your orchards, fields and forests. And we really are here to help. We are going to continue to work closely with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to eradicate this invasive species from your state... using the safest and most effective means possible.

This challenge calls for partnership and resolve. The only responsible course of action is to stop the progress of this species while we can-before it does serious damage to California's agricultural economy and spreads far beyond the areas where it is today. Left unchecked, this moth could destroy more than \$2 billion worth of California crops each year. Government's job is to protect the nation's food supply from this threat without putting public health at risk. If we fail to roll this invasion back now, we will not only have to deal with destroyed crops, but we'll face the risk of new restrictions on California's exports and growing use of chemical pesticides by producers.

The approach CDFA and USDA have adopted-using pheromones to disrupt the moth's reproductive cycle-is scientifically sound and environmentally sensitive. The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that insect pheromones are non-toxic and pose no threat to the environment or human health. For the sprays we are looking at using this year, we are taking the additional step of having an EPA-certified laboratory test all their ingredients to see whether any of them could act as irritants or trigger any adverse health reactions. We will put the results of those tests in the public arena and we will continue to keep the public fully informed about what we are doing and why we are doing it..."

-Ed Schafer, March 25, 2008, Ag Day at the Capital

For more information on the Light Brown Apple Moth eradication program, please visit [www.cdfa.ca.gov/lbam](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/lbam).

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